

Captions Service for Zoom, Webinars & Conference Calls

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In the last issue, I discussed the various assistive technology that provides captioning for the hearing impaired and deaf. I described the simplest way to hear what is being said is with the use of captions through various, innovative pieces of assistive technology equipment available to us.

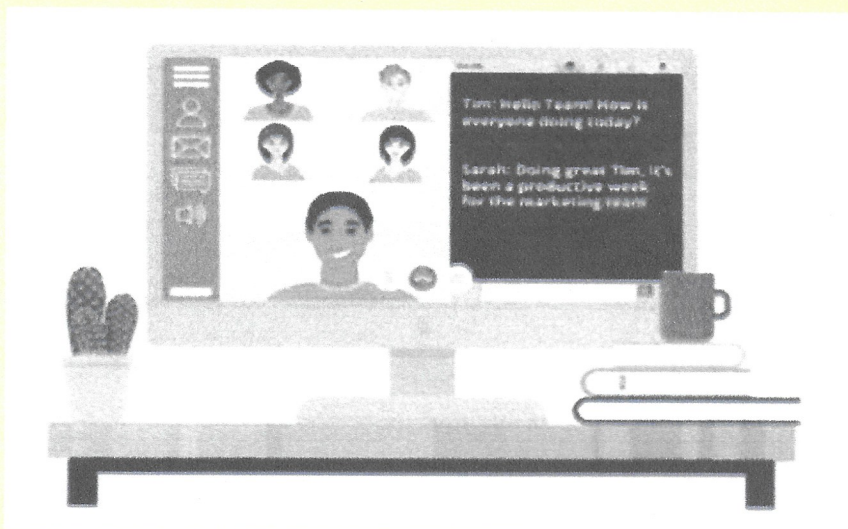
Since we all Zoom these days, whether it's for business or family, Relay Conference Captioning of New Jersey (known as RCC) provides free captioning for Deaf, Hard of Hearing and individuals who have speech difficulties, for FREE. RCC provides real-time captions to any internet connected computer, laptop or mobile device. The minimum requirement to use this service is

- a) having a high-speed internet connection;
- b) Microsoft Windows 10 or newer, or OS X and
- c) Internet Explorer, Firefox, Chrome or Safari with cookies and JavaScript enabled.

For example, if I know I have a Zoom meeting next week and I am hearing impaired, I go to www.njrelaycc.com and complete a reservation form for a live captioner to be present in the Zoom meet, conference call or webinar. The application will ask for some specifics. A meeting ID and password for a Zoom meeting. A dial in number, access code and/or URL for a webinar. A teleconference bridge number, access code for a conference call.

In the meetings, you will not see the face of the captioner but they will be present on the screen. The captions will be on a separate screen and only those people provided with the link to the captioning will see the captioning. If you know 2 or 3 people will need captioning, one person can apply and provide the names of the other participants. All those requiring the captions will receive a link to the RCC captioner. The captioner listens in and provides everything said in captions. For speech-impaired individuals, the captioner speaks for the individual. The speech-impaired individual types the words to be said to the captioner.

Go to www.njrelaycc.com at least 2 business days before your meeting to put in a reservation for a captioner-although I strongly recommend doing it sooner as captioners are in high demand. RCC is available Monday-Friday, 8am-8pm and Saturday, 8am-2pm. You can also request a transcript at the time of booking, for free. See picture below for a sample of a meeting with captions.



For Pearl's previous articles and information on Hearing Assistance, see the new page on our website under the tab "Health & Hearing."

*For information on technology and listings and links for events go to our website:
www.SOMATwoTownsforAllAges.org*